



**EDWARDSBURG
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Course Descriptions
2005-06**

Dear Parents:

Planning your child's middle school academic program is an essential component of his/her educational experience. This course selection guide is designed to provide you and your child with information about academic requirements and options for grades sixth through eighth.

Parents are encouraged to work together with their child in developing a school career plan that will prepare him/her for graduation, for further education, and for the world of work. Guidance counseling is available to assist you in making course selections appropriate for your child's future. Please make appointments with the Guidance Counselor should questions arise.

I hope that all students take full advantage of the multiple academic and extra-curricular opportunities available at Edwardsburg Middle School. If there is anything we can do to help your child, please let us know. Our goal will always be to provide an optimal educational experience for every student.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Koontz', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Anthony W. Koontz
Principal

Edwardsburg Middle School Guidance Department

The Guidance Department offers a wide variety of student services. Our goal is to ensure that each student has in place the support necessary for successful completion of middle school and transition to high school. Whether the student is academically talented or academically challenged, we will assist them in developing a plan for their future and in striving to do their personal best.

Guidance services include maintenance of student records, enrollment, registration and scheduling, along with processing progress reports and report cards. New students are welcomed with the Ambassador Program. This program pairs new enrollees with students who introduce them to new friends and provide a tour of the facilities.

We coordinate career activities throughout the school year. Seventh grade students experience Career Day with guest speakers representing different career pathways. This is the culmination of a career unit taught in seventh grade social studies. Eighth grade students also participate in a career unit in which they complete their Education Development Plan prior to scheduling their high school classes.

The peer mediation program is available to assist students in peaceful conflict resolution. Additional programs in place to maintain a safe environment include the School Climate Committee and Peer Bystanders.

Counseling is available as well as a range of interventions from Behavioral Services. These services are geared to help students develop age appropriate pro-social skills.

If you have any questions or comments regarding our Guidance Department, please call us at 269-663-1031, ext. 6115.

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**Edwardsburg Middle School
Course Selection 2005-2006
6th Grade**

OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED:

INITIALS:

Student Name: _____

Required Courses - (fills 6 of 7 class periods)

Language Arts
Mathematics
Reading Renaissance
Science
Social Studies
Study/PE

Electives: Fills remaining class period. Pick option 1 or 2 and check selection(s).

Option 1: The following choices are year-long courses and final, once scheduled.
Choose one of the following:

____ Choir

____ Band

____ Choir and Band (You will give up Study/PE with this choice)

Option 2: Exploratory Courses – these courses will rotate every nine weeks.

____ Art, Computers, Family & Consumer Science, Tech Ed

**FAILURE TO SUBMIT A FORM WILL RESULT IN STUDENT PLACEMENT BASED
UPON SPACE AVAILABILITY.**

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Edwardsburg Middle School

Course Descriptions

6th Grade

Art

Students will be creating artwork in both the second and third dimensions. Drawing skills will be studied using many different medias. Pencils, pastels, chalk, oil-pastels, and blender stumps will be introduced to the young students. Students will be taking home all artwork at the conclusion of our class time together.

Band

Sixth grade Band is the second year of instrumental music instruction for Edwardsburg students. It is a continuation of the 5th Grade Beginning Band or the equivalent in a different school system. Students who have not completed Beginning Band are considered on an individual basis and will be allowed into sixth grade band only with the director's permission. Sixth grade band members expand on the concepts learned the previous year. Class instruction will focus on musical skills that will prepare students for public performance. Performances will include a winter and spring concert. This is a yearlong course.

Choir

Sixth grade Choir is a beginning treble ensemble (Soprano, Alto) that focuses on basic musicianship skills such as music reading and writing. Sixth grade choir students will experience basic vocal pedagogy such as breath mechanism, vowel formation, and the development of excellent vocal production through rehearsal and performance of a variety of choral literature. Concert attendance is required.

Computers

The sixth grade nine-week Computer Exploratory Course covers basic keyboarding, introduces students to word processing and spreadsheet application. The highlight of the nine weeks is a "Wanted" poster created in MS Word using a scanned graphic, formatting text, and inserting borders.

Family & Consumer Science

This course is a nine-week Family and Consumer Sciences exploratory course offered at the sixth grade level. The class is designed to introduce the student to the topic areas listed below through a hands-on experience. Instruction in each topic area will be delivered through discussion, laboratory work, written and oral presentations and project construction.

- Child Care
- Clothing Essentials
- Consumerism/Technology
- Decision Making
- Foods/Wellness
- Relationships
- Self
Discovery/Responsibility

Language Arts

The emphasis in 6th grade Language Arts is on reading analysis and writing. Students will practice the skills of recognizing and analyzing main ideas, plot, inference, cause and effect, compare and contrast, drawing conclusions, and author's purpose. A variety of reading genres, including short stories, novels, poetry, non-fiction and mythology, will be used to practice these skills. The writing emphasis will be on well constructed paragraphs, 5 paragraph essays and the use of details.

Mathematics

Sixth grade Mathematics will explore various topics such as fractions, introductory geometry, basic algebra, the world of graphs, and decimals. With these topics, different types of activities will be utilized for instruction. Students will engage in various hands-on lessons as well as projects dealing with graphing, decimals, and ratios. The graphing project has the students interviewing several people and constructing different types of graphs from the data collected. The final project involves a scale drawing, using ratios of a system related to Science class.

Physical Education

In sixth grade Physical Education, there is a focus on increasing students' fitness levels. This goal is achieved through team sports and various other games. As students progress through each unit, they will acquire the skills and strategies necessary to increase their success in team sports. Students will be graded on psychomotor skills, personal-social attributes, cognitive skills, and participation.

Reading Renaissance

Sixth grade students will have one hour of silent sustained reading everyday. They will read books in their reading level and take tests over what they have read. The students will earn points for every test they complete with a passing grade.

Science

Science is a hands-on/minds-on experience that will challenge the individual student to examine their environment, develop a hypothesis about their environment, and test their hypothesis to come up with their own conclusions. Sixth graders will be provided with opportunities to construct and to reflect about important ideas of life science. Through inquiry based instruction, sixth grade students will develop conclusions to their investigations. Students will start the year with an ecological field trip to Cook Nuclear Plant and Fernwood Nature Center. The culminating activity of the year will be a field trip to Lansing Michigan, where the students will be able to conduct experiments and view animal adaptations first hand at the Potter Park Zoo.

Social Studies

Social Studies explores the western hemisphere with emphasis on Canada and Latin America. These regions are examined through the perspectives of history, geography, civics, economics, inquiry, and decision-making. The students learn about the history, government, economic growth, and diverse cultures of these countries. They analyze and interpret graphs, charts, and maps through daily geography skills. An understanding of the Core Democratic Values is demonstrated by applying them to real life situations. Weekly current events are examined through the use of News Currents. A variety of activities are employed to help students understand and learn about this region of the world.

Technology Education

Sixth grade Technology Education will explore Graphic Communications, a 10-activity, self-paced module and a hands-on Industrial Arts Project. Students will study the elements of design and how to create those elements via CorelDraw, a powerful computer graphics program. Students will understand and apply the principles of safety in a shop environment.

Edwardsburg Middle School
Course Schedule 2005-06
7th Grade

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RECEIVED:
INITIALS:

Student Name _____

Required Courses (Fill 5 out of 7 class periods)

- Health (1 semester)
- History
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Physical Education (1 semester)
- Science

Electives: Fill remaining 2 class periods; please choose a total of four (4) semester classes; for example:

- | | |
|---------|---------------|
| Band | = 2 semesters |
| Tech Ed | = 1 semester |
| Skills | = 1 semester |
| Total | = 4 semesters |

Rank 1-4 in order of preference: 1 being your first choice, 2 being your second choice, etc. Classes will be scheduled based on space availability.

- _____ Art (1 semester)
- _____ Band (2 semesters)
- _____ Choir (2 semesters)
- _____ Family & Consumer Science (1 semester)
- _____ Skills for Adolescence (1 semester)
- _____ Tech Ed (1 semester)

**FAILURE TO SUBMIT A FORM WILL RESULT IN STUDENT PLACEMENT
BASED UPON SPACE AVAILABILITY.**

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Edwardsburg Middle School

Course Descriptions

7th Grade

Art

This class will offer opportunities to learn the language of art. By learning the elements and principles of art, working with various media and evaluating master artists' works, students will develop an awareness of the appreciation for the presence of art both within the classroom and in their everyday experiences. This course will give the students the opportunity to create works of art and use various media and techniques, including the use of computers. This course will link lessons to the performing arts and other curricular areas. Through the use of videodiscs, CD-ROMS, and the Internet, students will be able to sharpen their visual perception. Careers will also be explored in this art class.

Band

Seventh grade Band is for the student who has completed 6th grade band or the equivalent in another school system. Students will study, in depth, the many concepts of instrumental music. The focus becomes more performance-oriented. Students will perform at the winter, pre-festival, and spring concerts, as well as, Solo and Ensemble and Band Festival. Other engagements may arise throughout the year. Seventh grade band is a year-long course.

Choir

Seventh grade Choir is an intermediate treble ensemble that continues to build upon musicianship skills and excellent vocal technique through rehearsal and performance of a variety of choral literature. Independent singing is developed through solo or small group performances. Concert attendance is required.

Family & Consumer Science

This course is a one-semester, eight-unit course offered at the seventh grade level. The class is designed to give the student a working knowledge and hands-on experience in each topic area listed below through lecture, discussion, laboratory work, written and oral presentations and project construction.

- Career Exploration
- Clothing Essentials

- Consumer Education
- Cultural Diversity
- Foods/Wellness
- Human Growth & Development
- Personal Living Skills
- Self Discovery/Responsibility

Health

This course will give students an understanding of the responsibility that they have for their own personal health. Students will be introduced to course content as specified in the Michigan Model for Comprehensive Health Education. Students will read information, view films, complete teacher guides, listen to guest speakers, and work on group and individual projects.

History

Seventh grade History focuses on the study of the Eastern Hemisphere. Students study the history of the Eastern Hemisphere from the beginnings of civilization through the modern day. Geography, political science, anthropology, economics, history, and current events all combine together to provide students a detailed account of our neighbors across the Pacific and Atlantic. As a demonstration of connections between the past and present, students research the movers and shakers of world history, become that person for one day, and present the life of that person through differentiated presentations including living history, informative speeches, journals, photo scrap books, and powerpoint presentations.

Horizons

The Horizons Program is designed to meet the unique needs of the at-risk student population. The program is arranged to address students' academic, emotional and behavioral needs. The objectives of the program are three-fold. The primary objective is improvement of the students' academic achievement in core curriculum course work. Second, an emphasis is placed on social and self-confidence issues. Third, the program stresses the importance of respect toward others and goal setting.

Students in the Horizon program are given the opportunity to redo assignments from core classes, as well as extra instruction and extended time to complete assignments. Organization skills are emphasized with the use of planners and periodic locker clean outs. Students are given the opportunity to build needed skills with the use of technology. The program offers several

different computer games that stress problem solving situations, as well as, math and English reinforcement skills.

Language Arts

Seventh grade English is a course designed for students to read and analyze a wide variety of classic and contemporary literature, and other texts to seek information, ideas, enjoyment, and understanding of their individuality, our common heritage and humanity, and the rich diversity in our society. Students will also demonstrate the ability to write clear and grammatically correct sentences, paragraphs, and compositions. Part of their writing experiences will include writing a persuasive, a descriptive, and an expository essay, as well as, a research paper documented with a variety of sources. Students will also partake in writing pen pal letters to the 5th grade and enjoy an end of the year orientation, "The Eddie 500."

Mathematics

Seventh grade Math begins with a study of interpreting data and statistics. It will continue with an in depth application of decimals, integers, equations, fractions and number theories. Proportions, percents, and measurement will also be stressed. Students end the year with geometry, probability, and statistics. A variety of projects and hands-on activities are used to explore the above topics. One project in particular is done during the geometry unit. Students are given the task of building a structure using only spice drops and toothpicks that will hold at least ten pounds.

Physical Education

In seventh grade there is a focus on increasing students' fitness levels. This can be done through students participating in refining team sports skills and strategies. As they progress through these units they will also be introduced to lifetime sports. Students will be assessed and graded on psychomotor skill, personal-social attributes, cognitive skills, and participation.

Skills for Adolescence

In the Skills for Adolescence class the students practice skills that will help them both now and in the future. These include accepting responsibilities for one's own actions, strengthening positive relationships with peers, practicing how to solve problems, and making healthy decisions. Students practice effective listening and communication, managing emotions in positive ways, and setting

goals. Students demonstrate these skills through role-playing skits, various writing activities, and learning games.

Technology Education

Seventh Grade Tech. Ed. will explore four computer lab modules: Research & Design, Electricity, Alternative Energy, and Audio Broadcasting. Students will also do four Industrial Arts Projects: Rockets, Mouse Trap Racers, Bridges, and Basketball Backboards. The computer modules involve basic technological application. The Industrial Arts Projects will involve a working drawing, list of materials and tools needed, producing a product to specifications, and testing and evaluating the completed project to the stated goals.

**Edwardsburg Middle School
Course Schedule 2005-2006
8th Grade**

OFFICE USE ONLY
RECEIVED:
INITIALS:

Student Name: _____

Required Courses (Fill 6 of 7 class periods)

- Computers (1 Semester)
- Foreign Language (1 Semester)
- Language Arts
- Mathematics or Algebra
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies

Electives: Fill remaining class period. Pick option 1 or 2 and check selection(s).

_____ **Option 1:** The following two courses are year-long commitments and are final, once scheduled. You may pick one or choose "Option 2".

- _____ Band
- _____ Choir

_____ **Option 2:** Each class is a semester course. Therefore, only two of the four options will be scheduled. Rank 1-4 in order of preference: 1 being your first choice, 2 being your second choice, etc. These classes will be scheduled based on the space available.

- _____ Art
- _____ Art, Advanced
- _____ Family & Consumer Science
- _____ Tech Ed

**FAILURE TO SUBMIT A FORM WILL RESULT IN STUDENT PLACEMENT
BASED UPON SPACE AVAILABILITY.**

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Edwardsburg Middle School

Course Descriptions

8th Grade

Art

This class is also designed to help the new art student acquire skills necessary for understanding and creating artwork. This class will offer opportunities to learn the language of art. By learning the elements and principles of art, working with various media and evaluating master artists' works, students will develop an awareness of and appreciation for the presence of art both within the classroom and in their everyday experiences. This course will give the students the opportunity to create works of art and use various media and techniques, including computers. This course will link lessons to the performing arts and other curricular areas. Through videodisc, CD-ROMS, and the Internet, students will be able to sharpen their visual perception. Careers will also be explored in this art class. As students explore, theorize, and apply the principles of aesthetics and art criticism to their own artwork and the artwork of others, they will formulate a lifelong appreciation and satisfying experience in the arts.

Art, Advanced

Advanced Art is a course for the very serious student. This course will develop a more intense art vocabulary. Art History will be stressed from early times to modern cultures. By acquiring advanced elements and principles of art, working with various media and evaluating master artists' works, students will develop an awareness of and appreciation for the presence of art within the classroom and in their everyday experiences. This course will allow freedom of expression, use of tools and techniques. This class will use CD-ROMS and videodiscs to enhance the study of master artists. Art careers will be further explored. At the end of this session the student will have created a portfolio of their work. As students explore, theorize, and apply the principles of aesthetics and art criticism to their own artwork, and the artwork of others, they will formulate a lifelong appreciation and satisfying experiences in the arts.

Band

Eighth grade Band is for the student who has completed seventh grade Band or the equivalent in another school system. This course will prepare the student for participation in the high school band. Activities will include units in marching band, jazz, and smaller ensemble playing. Performances will include winter, pre-festival, and spring concerts, as well as, Solo and Ensemble and

Band Festival. Students in eighth grade Band will occasionally perform at middle school functions. Members of this group will also be eligible to participate in the high school pep band and the Memorial Day Parade. This is a year-long course.

Choir

This year of choir is an advanced mixed ensemble (soprano, alto, and baritone) that performs a variety of choral literature. Students are expected to sing independently and are encouraged to participate in District Solo and Ensemble. One year of choir prior to this course is recommended but not required. Concert attendance is required.

Computer Awareness

Computer Awareness is a one-semester introductory course designed for students to master touch stroke keying, while developing the proper technique, speed and accuracy when keying text. Students will also be introduced to applications in word processing application, spreadsheets and presentations.

The students will design a “Virtual Vacation” by going on-line to research a vacation spot. This unit will incorporate all applications taught during the semester as well as on-line research.

The course stresses keyboarding and uses the South-Western tutorial during the semester. The course also looks into word processing and basic formatting of letters, reports and documents. The course introduces students to a spreadsheet program incorporating formulas and charts. The final application used is a presentation application in which the students compare two different types; learning to use graphics, custom animation, and sounds.

Family & Consumer Science

This course is designed to allow students to further explore Family and Consumer Education. Additionally, the course will provide the student a working knowledge and hands-on experience in each topic area listed below through lecture, discussion, laboratory work, written and oral presentations and project construction.

- Career Exploration in Family and Consumer Science
- Clothing Construction
- Consumer Education
- Foods/Nutrition
- Home Interior Design
- Human Growth and Development

Foreign Language

French - This is an introductory course in the French language and culture with emphasis on speaking and oral proficiency. Reading and writing skills are developed to strengthen what the student has been taught orally.

German - Students will develop the basic reading, writing, and speaking skills necessary to communicate inter-linguistically. Students will also gain insight into the cultures of the German speaking countries.

Spanish - Students will start beginning conversation with basic vocabulary using greeting, time, dates, and other day-to-day usage as the starting point. Included will be an appreciation for the culture of Spanish speaking nations.

Horizons

The Horizons program is designed to meet the unique needs of the at-risk student population. The program is arranged to address students' academic, emotional and behavioral needs. The objective of the program is first to improve core curriculum course work and grades of the students. Second, an emphasis is placed on social and self-confidence issues. Lastly, the program stresses the importance of respect toward others and goal setting.

Students in the Horizon program are given the opportunity to redo assignments from core classes, as well as extra instruction and extended time to complete assignments. Organization skills are emphasized with the use of planners and periodic locker clean outs. Students are given the opportunity to build needed skills with the use of technology. The program offers several different computer games that stress problem solving situations, as well as, Math and English reinforcement skills.

Language Arts

This course includes thematic units of literature, grammar, speech, and writing. The course will include *The Diary of Anne Frank*, a play version of the life of Anne Frank, with an additional differentiated learning unit focusing on World War II. Students are introduced to the works of Shakespeare through some of his writing, and productions at the Globe Theatre. Thematic short story units include fiction, nonfiction, and biographical and autobiographical selections. Additional focus areas will include Greek and Roman mythology. Students will incorporate the writing process in their persuasive and expository essays. Vocabulary will be enhanced through the use of the *Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop* series. A unit on public speaking will have students examining famous speeches, as well as, giving two speeches and an oral book review. The concluding activity is a cross-curriculum study of the Civil War. Wherein English

students will read the novel *Red Cap*, and complete a Civil War differentiated learning unit in conjunction with their social studies class.

Mathematics

Eighth grade Math begins with a study of graphing techniques and various displays of information. It will continue with an in depth look of integers, variable expressions, the coordinate plane, and rational and irrational numbers. Proportions, percents, and measurement will also be covered. Various algebraic topics including equations, functions and polynomials will be explored to prepare the students for high school math classes. Finally, students will be involved with several projects relating the topics of study in mathematics to other middle school classes and everyday life.

Physical Education

Students will be introduced to a wide variety of lifetime activities so that each student may find an activity which is enjoyable and can provide an opportunity to be successful. The class will be set up similar to a health club atmosphere. Students will be assessed on psychomotor skill, personal-social attributes, cognitive skills, and participation.

Science

Science will explore various topics related to the area known as earth science, which includes the study of earth's surface, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering and erosion, earth's history, energy resources, weather and climate, earth's fresh and salt waters, and astronomy. Due to the nature of science, several different types of activities or materials will be used during instruction. Some of the activities are hands-on, laboratory experiments, videos, demonstrations, student presentations, TV or video clips, newspapers, computer programs, research projects, graphs, chapter projects, outlines, worksheets, drawings, maps, and various measuring tools.

Social Studies

Social Studies covers the historical periods from 1763 (French and Indian War) to 1865 + (Reconstructions after the Civil War), as well as, the U.S. Constitution and its importance. Also incorporated will be weekly current events (News Currents) using prepared current issues/events on DVD. Students investigate the main historical periods through activities that include reading and listening guides; timelines; cause and effect, resource, and other geographical

charts; Venn diagrams; bar, line, and circle graphs; and explanatory posters. Students complete and study several public policy issue writings, which incorporate the Core Democratic Values. Across-curricular differentiated activity over the Civil War and Reconstruction Era (in conjunction with eighth grade English) completes the school year.

Technology Education

Technology Education will explore the following computer lab modules: Lasers in Construction, Robotics, Landscape Design, and Aviation. Students will also complete several Industrial Arts Projects: egg safety mobile, key chain holders, and small furniture design and construction. The computer modules will involve the students in a basic course of each technology, as well as, hands on experience producing a product, which shows demonstration of the learning that occurred. The industrial arts projects will involve a working drawing, list of materials and tools needed, producing a product to specifications, and testing and evaluating the completed project.